

FILM CLIPS NEWS FROM THE MONTANA FILM OFFICE

Film forum explores in-state film industry

For more than 30 years the Montana Film Office (MFO) has provided support to productions in the state. In 2015, the MFO took it one step further and created a space for Montana production partners to gather and engage.

The Montana film industry descended on historic Butte Oct. 14–15 for the Montana Forum on Film + New Media. For two days Montana directors, producers, filmmakers, crew members, and folks from all levels of creative media arts came together and discussed, networked, and truly exhibited the caliber of talent that we have in state.

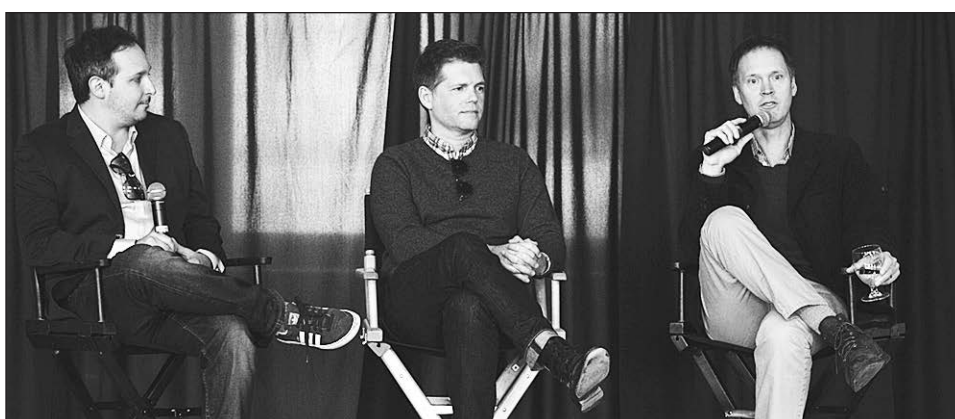
Montana Film Commissioner Deny Staggs energetically opened the event to a crowd of around 120 media makers. His voice echoed through the iconic Mother Lode Theatre and assured attendees that while the MFO mission had once been “only looking outside our borders to build our industry and economy,” it is now refocusing on the talent and skills within Montana.

He closed by challenging those gathered, “How can we strengthen our in-state industry? How can we show that you’re not ‘Hollywood’ but a home-grown industry, our new-age manufacturers?”

Those questions and more were scrutinized through panel discussions and presentations that showcased the work being done in Montana, discussed the successes and challenges for Montana production crew, and connected Montanans with industry leaders and influencers, including journalist Jeff Snyder and producer Brunson Green.

Reaching out to other industries to increase the impact of film saw Denise Runge, of the Helena College, bringing a new perspective on industry education and development. The college is looking to expand its offerings into a certificate program with a production curriculum – e.g., set building, costume design, lighting, and sound.

“We’re hoping to take what we have [classes in construction, electrical work, interior design] and offer this, too,” she told the *Montana Standard*.

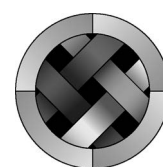


TheWrap.com journalist Jeff Snyder, executive producer of “The Help,” Brunson Green, and Montana Film Commissioner Deny Staggs discuss production in Montana during the Montana Forum on Film + New Media. (Photo by John Ansotegui)

Snyder and Green (joined by Staggs) delivered the keynote discussion about Montana’s desirability as a filming location and what can be done to keep our local industry leaders connected and competitive on the world and national markets. They assured those gathered that Montana has a place in the larger industry and encouraged them to connect and work with the Montana Film Office and the Department of Commerce to keep Montana moving forward.

In addition to panel discussions and coffee breaks, a reception treated guests to a screening of CHISEL Industries and Headframe Spirit’s short film, “The Orphan Girl,” introduced by the distillery’s owners, John and Courtney McKee. The couple hope their innovative, trans-media approach can lead the drive in Southwest Montana to reemphasize Butte’s prominence as a venue for entrepreneurship and economic leadership.

As the forum drew to a close, comments flew about what to do next, who to bring in, and what goals should be set and accomplished in 2015. There was a sense of community and drive that refreshed the MFO’s mission and commitment to in-state partners and set the stage for Montana’s media partners to really show what the Big Sky has to offer.



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MAP News: Statistics that matter

By Sheri Jarvis, MAP Director

Greetings from the Montana Artrepreneur Program (MAP)! This year celebrates many achievements for MAP and ushers in new possibilities for the future of this fine program.

As many readers know, MAP is a program that helps visual artists learn how to develop sustainable businesses in the arts. It’s worth noting in this issue of *State of the Arts* that, since 2009, MAP has served 304 artists across Montana via 33 cohorts with 25 trained coaches providing more than 1,716 hours of instruction time. Over the course of five years, coaches have also provided more than 3,000 hours of additional individual guidance and support.

There have been 38 artists who have submitted their course materials and have passed the intense jury process for Market Ready Certification, three of whom passed “with distinction.”

Why do these statistics matter?

- They matter, in part, because they represent an amazing amount of courage and commitment on the part of brave artists and dedicated coaches who work toward advancing the title of “Professional Artist” as a legitimate, sustainable career option where popular opinion often discounts the concept.

- They matter because they prove that MAP is a formidable program built on solid principles that have stood the test of time and practical review.

- They also matter because they represent the steadfast commitment of the Montana Arts Council to provide substantive support to the entrepreneurial ventures of visual artists. These statistics show that the arts are taken seriously and that they mean business here in Montana.

Applications are being accepted and cohorts are in the process of forming throughout Montana for the 2015 year. To find out more about MAP, please visit www.art.mt.gov/folklife/folklife_business.asp or contact Sheri Jarvis, Montana Artrepreneur Program director, at 406-865-0884 or sherijarvis@mt.gov.

Consider adding your story to the many success stories told by artists whose art businesses have thrived and whose lives have been enhanced by the Montana Artrepreneur Program.



Sheri Jarvis

MONTANA POET LAUREATE

Song for the Solstice
By Tami Haaland



In December she eats the last tomato from her garden
and puts the year to bed over pasta and reggiano,
its worst sorrows and hours blended in a moment.

The tomato is bright and acidic, not like vine-ripened,
fuller fruit collected in sun. Each year she saves
the green harvest to see them mature or shrivel.

Small meal at a wooden table near a restless dog.
Small celebration of last fruits, the aunt dying
in her ninety-third year, the mother already gone.

In honor of tea cups and saucers, the fine,
inherited silver and glass come to order her life.
A toast to the darkest day, to light finding these rooms.

– Published in *Adanna*, Spring 2014

Montana Poet Laureate 2015

Poetry

Nominations for the State’s next Poet Laureate

Open: Wednesday, December 30th, 2014

Deadline: Friday, April 1, 2015 at 5 p.m.

The Montana Arts Council encourages nominations of poets from all walks of life, and all poetry forms are welcome. Montanans may nominate a poet for the Poet Laureate position, or learn more about eligibility requirements, the application process and more about the Poet Laureate Program at:
http://art.mt.gov/resources/resources_plposition.asp

For more information please contact:

Montana Poet Laureate Program

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